

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 00813 282112Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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P 282045Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4487

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 0813

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PA

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FORTHCOMING TRIP

1. FONMIN SAPENA PASTOR ASKED ME TODAY WHETHER ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS COULD STOP OFF IN PARAGUAY FOR A BRIEF VISIT OR AT LEAST AN AIRPORT MEETING. I TOLD HIM THAT ROGERS' TIGHT SCHEDULE DID NOT PERMIT A VISIT TO ASUNCION AT THIS TIME AND FLIGHT SCHEDULES WERE SUCH THAT DEVIATION TO ASUNCION FOR AN AIRPORT STOP WOULD BE QUITE TIME-CONSUMING.

2. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE FROM PREVIOUS MESSAGES BOTH PRESIDENT STROESSNER AND SAPENA PASTOR HAVE BEEN SOLICITING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT AND THE FACT THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS WILL STOP IN MONTEVIDEO HAS AGAIN RAISED SUSPICION IN THEIR MINDS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIP MIGHT BE EXTENDED TO URUGUAY. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT IN THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULED FIVE-NATION TRIP PARAGUAY COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED BUT A URUGUAY VISIT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE AN ADVERSE REACTION IN A COUNTRY WHICH, JUST LIKE URUGUAY, HAS FOLLOWED A PRO-US LINE. END COMMENT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: AS WITH THE LATER TRIP BY SECRETARY KISSINGER (ASUNCION 0747), I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A POSITIVE GESTURE IF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS WHILE IN THE AREA WOULD SEND SAPENA PASTOR A MESSAGE OF GREETINGS AND REGRET THAT HE IS UNABLE TO VISIT ASUNCION

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AT THIS TIME.

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